Curry School of Education
Guidelines for Students with Significant Life Events
Approved by Faculty Council 1/20/2012

The administration, faculty and staff at the Curry School of Education seek to support all students in whatever ways possible during their program of studies.

Any number of life circumstances can interrupt students’ ability to continue their studies, either for a short or long period of time. Life events can include family crises, major illness, or the adoption or birth of a child. The following guidelines represent the position of the Curry School of Education when students need to request accommodations during coursework, graduate assistantships, mentorships or internships.

Whenever possible, students are expected to be proactive in making arrangements for anticipated absences from classes and other commitments. This often entails meeting with their advisor, instructors and other individuals (e.g., clinical or internship supervisors, doctoral mentors, graduate or teaching assistantship supervisors) with whom they are working during the semester.

Each supervisor, advisor, and/or instructor will evaluate the content, schedule, work load and other elements of study within his or her own domain and work with the individual student to determine the amount of leave time needed from academic commitments. In the case of coursework, the instructor will decide if the coursework or field experience can be made up later, if an incomplete is appropriate, or if a course will need to be retaken at a different time. Typically, if a student expects to miss more than 20% of class time, it may be to that student’s benefit to take the course at a later time. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis and instructors may approach absences from their classes differently from one another.

When the absence will affect assistantships, mentorships and internships, supervisors will work with students and determine ways in which the student can meet requirements given the specific personal circumstances, such as extensions or reorganization of a student’s commitments on a short-term basis. Decisions will be made in concert with the student, instructor, advisor, program coordinator and department chair.

It is the goal of the Curry School of Education to both ensure a rigorous academic program for its students and accommodate their life circumstances to the extent possible.